

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 FEA-01 ERDA-05 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00
CIEP-01 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07 FPC-01 H-01 INR-07
INT-05 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-04 USIA-06
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P 041947Z JAN 77
FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2029

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SENV, ENRG, CA
SUBJ: BEAUFORT SEA

1. SUMMARY. EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED LETTER FROM EXTAFF USA
DIVISION DIRECTOR SUGGESTING CONSULTATIONS ON BEAUFORT
SEA EARLY IN MARCH. LETTER AND ITS ENCLOSURES
REVIEW CANADIAN ACTIVITIES IN BEAUFORT SEA DRILLING.
END SUMMARY.

2. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF LETTER: BEGIN TEXT. I REFER TO MY
LETTER OF OCT 27 IN WHICH I CONVEYED THE CANADIAN GOVERN-
MENT'S AGREEMENT TO CONSULTATIONS WITH THE U.S. GOVERNMENT
ON DOME PETROLEUM DRILLING OPERATIONS IN THE BEAUFORT
SEA. I ALSO MENTIONED THAT A REVIEW OF PAST BEAUFORT SEA
DRILLING OPERATIONS AND FUTURE PLANS WOULD BE CARRIED
OUT WITHIN THE GOVERNMENT AND THAT I WOULD COMMUNICATE
WITH YOU AGAIN WITH A VIEW TO DETERMINING A MUTUALLY
CONVENIENT DATE FOR CANADA-U.S. CONSULTATIONS.

AS MR. KIRSCH OF THIS DIVISION INFORMED YOU ON DECEMBER
22, THE GOVERNMENT'S CURRENT REVIEW HAS TAKEN THE FORM
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OF REPORTS TO A "STEERING COMMITTEE" FROM THREE SUB-
COMMITTEES ON THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC, ENVIRONMENTAL AND
TECHNICAL ASPECTS OF PAST BEAUFORT SEA DRILLING
OPERATIONS. THE STEERING COMMITTEE WILL INTEGRATE THE
SUB-COMMITTEES' REPORTS PRIOR TO CONSULTATIONS WITH THE
U.S. GOVERNMENT AND CANADIAN NATIVE COMMUNITIES.
FOLLOWING SUCH CONSULTATIONS RECOMMENDATIONS WILL BE

MADE TO THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT WITH RESPECT TO THE 1977
DRILLING SEASON.

IN ORDER TO FACILITATE THE U.S. GOVERNMENT'S
CONSIDERATION OF THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT'S REVIEW OF THE
BEAUFORT SEA DRILLING OPERATIONS IT HAS BEEN AGREED
THAT THE REPORTS OF THE SUB-COMMITTEES AND OTHER RELEVANT
DOCUMENTATION WOULD BE MADE AVAILABLE TO THE U.S.
EMBASSY AS SOON AS THEY HAVE BEEN PRODUCED. AS AN
INITIAL STEP, YOU WILL FIND ATTACHED THE FOLLOWING
DOCUMENTS FOR YOUR INFORMATION:

- THE TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE STEERING COMMITTEE AND
THE THREE SUB-COMMITTEES;

- A PRESS RELEASE ISSUED ON DECEMBER 6, 1976 CONCERNING
CONSULTATION BEFORE MORE BEAUFORT SEA DRILLING; AND

- A MEMORANDUM FROM THE DEPUTY MINISTER TO THE MINISTER
OF INDIAN AND NORTHERN AFFAIRS HIGHLIGHTING THE PRINCIPAL
FINDING OF THE DRAFT SOCIO-ECONOMIC IMPACT REPORT OF
THE BEAUFORT SEA DRILLING.

THE PRESENT SCHEDULE OF THE REVIEW IS AS FOLLOWS:
THE REPORT OF THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC SUB-COMMITTEE IS TO BE
COMPLETED BY JANUARY 10; THE ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS
SUB-COMMITTEE WILL COMPLETE ITS REPORT BY JANUARY 24;
AND THE REPORT OF THE TECHNICAL ANALYSIS SUB-COMMITTEE
WILL BE COMPLETED BY JANUARY 7. THE INTEGRATION OF THE
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SUB-COMMITTEES' REPORTS IS SCHEDULED TO BE COMPLETED BY
MID-FEBRUARY. A FINAL DECISION BY THE GOVERNMENT ON
1977 OPERATIONS SHOULD BE MADE IN APRIL.

IN LIGHT OF THE ABOVE, WE WOULD SUGGEST THAT BI-
LATERAL CONSULTATIONS BE HELD AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE
FOLLOWING COMPLETION OF THE REVIEW BY CANADIAN GOVERNMENT
OFFICIALS OF BEAUFORT SEA OPERATIONS, PREFERABLY IN
EARLY MARCH, 1977. IF THIS PROPOSAL IS AGREEABLE TO YOU,
I SHOULD BE GRATEFUL IF YOU WOULD COMMUNICATE WITH ME
WITH A VIEW TO DETERMINING A SPECIFIC DATE AND LOCALE FOR
CONSULTATIONS. END TEXT.

3. ENCLOSURES TO EUR/CAN BY POUCH.
LEARY

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Message Attributes

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Sent Date: 04-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition History: n/a
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